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CONFIDENTIAL PTQ8284

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ACTION PRM-01

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|------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | AF-00 | AID-00 | CIAE-00 | DODE-00 | WHA-00 | SRPP-00 |
| | EAP-00 | EB-00 | EUR-00 | VC-00 | H-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 |
| | INSE-00 | IO-00 | L-00 | AC-01 | NEA-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 |
| | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | ACE-00 | P-00 |
| | SP-00 | SSO-00 | SS-00 | STR-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 |
| | SA-00 | PMB-00 | DRL-02 | G-00 | SAS-00 | /008W | |

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6336
INFO USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
COMMISSIONER USINS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 003264

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM A/S TAFT, PRM/A, PRM/AAA, AF/S, AF/PD,
WHA/CCA
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NAIROBI FOR REFCOORD AND INS

ROME FOR INS

LONDON FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/16/10

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SUBJECT: ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT MAKES NO DECISION ON
RELEASE OF CUBAN DOCTORS

REF: A) HARARE 3263

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5
B/D.

11. (C) ON JUNE 16 UNHCR ATTORNEY MICHEIL SALOMONS
REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM THE
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE ON A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL
DECISION TO RELEASE CUBANS DOCTORS LEONEL CORDOVA
RODRIGUEZ AND NORIS DEL CARMEN PENA MARTINEZ TO THE
CUSTODY OF THE UNHCR. UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
OLUSEYI BAJULAIYE SEPARATELY INFORMED AMBASSADOR
MCDONALD THAT HE WOULD ASK UNHCR HEAD OGATA TO WRITE
PRESIDENT MUGABE ASKING HIM TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR EARLY
RELEASE. SALOMONS SAID HE WAS GOING TO MEET WITH THE
DUTCH AMBASSADOR ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 16 TO PURSUE THE
IDEA OF TEMPORARILY RESETTLING THE CUBANS IN THE
NETHERLANDS (REFTEL). HE ALSO INFORMED US THAT LOCAL
UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ADU IS TO VISIT THE CUBANS ON
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THE SAME DAY.

12. (C) COMMENT: WE ARE CONVINCED THAT BAJULAIYE
SINCERELY WISHES TO REACH AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE CASE
OF THE CUBANS DOCTORS THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO ALL. WE
ALSO DETECTED EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM ON HIS ORGANIZATION'S
PART. BAJULAIYE IS A COMPETENT AND HARD-WORKING
DIPLOMAT, BUT HAS LITTLE TO SHOW FOR HIS EFFORTS TO
DATE. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION QUITE CLEAR, FORCEFULLY
AND OFTEN, ON A BILATERAL BASIS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
ZIMBABWE AND HAVE EXHAUSTED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
INTERVENTION. THE ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT IS NOT FOCUSED
ON THIS PROBLEM ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION THAT MAY
DETERMINE HIS PARTY'S FUTURE. INDEED, WE DOUBT THAT
MUGABE EVEN HEARD ABOUT THE CASE ON JUNE 15, PER REFTEL,
AS WE SAW HIS MOTORCADE ON THE STREETS HEADING TOWARD
HIS RESIDENCE AT THE TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD
INFORMED THE UNHCR OFFICIALS THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE BRIEFED. END COMMENT.

13. (C) ACTION REQUESTED: WE THINK THAT MAXIMUM PRESSURE

NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON UNHCR IN GENEVA. WHILE BAJULAIYE SAID THAT UNHCR HEAD OGATA WOULD WRITE PRESIDENT MUGABE, WE THINK THAT A TELEPHONE CALL IS A MORE POTENT INSTRUMENT. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AGAIN TO STRESS OUR DESIRE FOR HER PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH THE ZIMBABWEAN HEAD OF STATE IN THIS MATTER.

¶4. (C) ACTION REQUESTED CONTINUED: WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE POWER OF THE MEDIA COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS
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CASE THROUGH A BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR REPORTERS CHRIS GAITHER AND/OR SANDRA MARQUEZ AT "THE MIAMI HERALD." THE AIM OF SUCH A BRIEFING SHOULD BE TO GET "THE MIAMI HERALD" TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE'S UNILATERAL ABILITY TO RESOLVE THE CASE. THAT ATTENTION, IN TURN, MAY HELP THE GOZ UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CASE, ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED NOW.

MCDONALD

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